

REMARKS

Claims 16, 18-20 and 22 are presented for consideration, with Claims 16 and 22 being independent.

The claims have been amended to place the application in condition for allowance. In particular, Claim 16 has been amended to include subject matter indicated as being allowable, and Claim 22 has been placed in independent form.

Applicant notes with appreciation that Claim 22 is indicated as containing patentable subject matter and will be allowed if placed in independent form. As noted above, Claim 22 is now presented in independent form. In addition, Claim 16 has been amended to include, among other features, the feature of Claim 22. It is submitted, therefore, that Claims 16, 18-20 and 22 are allowed.

Claims 16 through 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Tomimatsu '254 in view of Toda '637. Without conceding to the propriety of this rejection, Claim 16 has been amended to include patentable subject matter, as discussed above. Accordingly, this rejection is deemed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

The amendments to the claims were not presented earlier as it was believed that the previously presented claims would be found allowable. This Amendment cancels claims without adding any additional claims. Moreover, the Examiner's familiarity with the subject matter of the present application will allow an appreciation of the significance of the amendments herein without undue expenditure of time and effort. Finally, the Amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration or search, but rather amends the claims to

include subject matter indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, it is submitted that consideration and entry of the Amendment is appropriate.

Therefore, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 16 and 22 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 18, 19 and 20 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Scott D. Malpede/

Scott D. Malpede
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 32,533

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
SDM/rmm

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